

# ARTISTIC CONSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMON CITY

APRIL 20 and 21 - 2017

ARIA Research Seminar



The “enclosure of the commons” is a popular topic in political economics and philosophy of law. Discussions about open source and creative commons are just two examples that come to mind. In this seminar, we will attempt to describe what exactly it is that constitutes these “commons” for an urban context. What are the commons of a **city** and how can artists contribute to these commons with artistic interventions in public spaces? Or better, how do they generate public space by artistic interventions? And, how do they generate common ground and infrastructures by their actions? Which strategies do they follow, and to what (legal, political, economical) limits do they run? How do they deal with authorities, and authorities with them?

This **ARIA** research seminar has the honor to present a distinct international group of visual artists, architects, authors, theater and museum directors, performers, lawyers, journalists, curators and researchers who deal with this liminal civil zone between creativity and criminality.

## Thursday April 20

9:00am – Welcome & Coffee

9:30am – Introduction

by artist **Nico Dockx** (Antwerp) & CCQO sociologist **Louis Volont** (Antwerp)

10:00am – Case Study 1

## PRO-TEST LAB

by **Urbonas Studio** (Boston)

11:30 pm – Slide Show - presentation & talk

## SILICON VALLEY SCENARIO(S)

## CREATIVE COMMONS & CREATIVE CAPITALISM

by artist photographer antropologist **Daniel Faust** (New York)

12:30pm – Lunch Break

1:30pm – Case Study 2

## THE VERNISSAGE – THEATRE, DRUGS & ANTWERP PUBLIC SPACE

by Martha!tentatief theater director **Bart Van Nuffelen** (Antwerp)

2:30 - Lecture

### TAKING THE STREETS: THE CITY AS A SITE, 1960s-1970s

by Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp Art Historian **Johan Pas** (Antwerp)

3:15pm - Lecture

### CONTEMPORARY ASPECTS OF PUBLIC SPACE HACKINGS

by ARIA PhD artist **Bence Rohánszky** (Antwerp)

4pm – Case Study 3

## THE LIFE OF MECHELEN AND THE FOUNDATION OF THINGS

by Museum Hof van Busleyden director **Sigrid Bosmans** (Mechelen) & Arsenaal /Lazarus director **Willy Thomas** (Brussels)

4:45pm – Group discussion

moderated by Extra City director **Adinda Van Geystelen** (Antwerp) & CCQO researcher **Hanka Otte** (Groningen)

6pm - Closing

## Friday April 21

9:30am – Welcome & Coffee & Brief Report of April 20

10:00am – Lecture

## PUBLIC, CIVIL & COMMON URBAN TERRITORIES

by ARIA & CCQO sociologist **Pascal Gielen** (Antwerp)

11:15am – Case Study 4

## THE RIGHT TO ILLEGALITY

by **Recetas Urbanas** (Sevilla)

12:45pm – Lunch Break

2:15pm – Case Study 5

**ON HIDDEN COMMONS**

about shedding light and lifting unheard voices

by artist-performer **Sarah Vanhee** (Brussels)

3:30pm – Group Discussion

with Progress Lawyer **Lies Michielsen** (Antwerp), This is Tomorrow (Dit is Morgen) author and De Wereld Morgen journalist **Thomas Decreus** (Brussels), TimeLab director **Evi Swinnen** (Ghent), Agency artist **Kobe Matthys** (Brussels) & ...

moderated by CCQO theorist **Lara Garcia** (Barcelona) & Middelheim Museum director **Sara Weyns** (Antwerp)

5:30pm – Closing

## **VENUE**

**ARIA & CCQOffice**

Antwerp University (S.S208), Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp

**Free entrance, but obligatory registration with announcement ‘ARIA COMMONS SEMINAR April 20 and/or 21’ (Please indicate if you come only April 20 or only April 21, or both days - before April 11) at**

[art&research@ap.be](mailto:art&research@ap.be)

## **MORE INFORMATION**

[pascal.gielen@uantwerpen.be](mailto:pascal.gielen@uantwerpen.be); [nico.dockx@gmail.com](mailto:nico.dockx@gmail.com)

This seminar is a collaboration of **ARIA**, Urban Studies Institute and the Culture Commons Quest Office (University of Antwerp), Extra City, Middelheim Museum, Sorry and Valiz. It is financed by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp (AP University College), **ARIA**, **CCQO** and the Fund for Scientific Research Flanders (FWO). The Seminar is part of the research project ‘Making Space Public’ (Publiek Domein Maken) of Nico Dockx and Pascal Gielen, financed by Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp (AP University College) and **CCQO** .

The April Seminar will be continued with a Summer School September 11-16, 2017 at Middelheim Museum Antwerp and the book project Commonism: A New Aesthetic for the Real (eds. Nico Dockx & Pascal Gielen, Valiz /Antenae-Arts in Society series, 2018)